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supported frame about a shaft axis and adapted to be rotated; a friction enhancer comprising a tubular member adapted to be removably and slideably received on the drive shaft parallel to the shaft axis, with the tubular member including an outer periphery having noncircular cross sections perpendicular to the shaft axis, with the tubular member adapted to be prevented from rotating relative to the drive shaft; an axle assembly pivotably mounted to the frame about an axle axis parallel to the shaft axis; at least one wheel rotatably mounted to the axle assembly about a wheel axis spaced from and parallel to the shaft axis and axle axis, with the axle assembly being pivotable between a transport position and a working position, with the wheel having an outer periphery spaced from the drive shaft in the transport position and engaging the friction enhancer received on the drive shaft in the working position, with the wheel being driven by the drive shaft when rotated.

REMARKS

Claims 7-13 are hereby elected, subject to traverse. It should be appreciated that the preferred embodiment includes each of the various aspects recited in the claims as filed in the present application. Further, it is believed that the preferred embodiment produces synergistic results. As each of these aspects are interrelated due to their inclusion in a single embodiment, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims must be searched to do a complete examination of this application. It is then respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement should be removed for Patent Office economies and efficiencies.

Furthermore, claims 1-6 and 7-13 relate to the drive of the earthworking machine, with the friction enhancer of claims 1-6 being recited in claims 8-10 as originally filed, with their combination producing synergistic results. It is then respectfully submitted that claims 8-10 link claims 1-6 to claims 7-13. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the restriction between claims 1-6 and 7-13 be removed for this separate and independent reason.

Additionally, claim 32 has been added including the features of claims 1 and 7 and thereby linking claims 1 and 7. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the restriction between claims 1-6 and 7-13 be removed for this separate and independent reason.

Similarly, claim 32 includes the features of claims 14, 22, 24 and 26 and thereby linking claims 1, 14, 22, 24 and 26. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the restriction between claims 7-13 and claims 14-18 and 22-31 be removed for this separate and independent reason.

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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To insure completeness, an Information Disclosure Statement was mailed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on December 20, 2001 for this application.

The Examiner is encouraged to initiate a telephonic interview after the search relating to this application has been completed to advance prosecution of this application and mutually resolve any obstacles to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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